

Animals

2-2 The student will demonstrate an understanding of the needs and characteristics of animals as they interact in their own distinct environments. (Life Science)
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2.2.4 Summarize the interdependence between animals and plants as sources of food and shelter.

Taxonomy level: 2.4-B Understand Conceptual Knowledge

Previous/Future knowledge: In 1st grade (1-2), students illustrated the characteristics of plants and how these characteristics helped them survive in their own distinct environments. This is the first time that students have been introduced to the idea that animals and plants rely on each other for food and shelter. Students will develop this concept further in 3rd grade (3-2.5) when they study simple food chains.

It is essential for students to know that animals cannot survive without plants and many plants depend on animals. –

- Plants are sources of food for many animals and can provide shelter for other animals. For example, cows eat grass for food and some insects eat leaves; or for shelter, some trees serve as homes for small animals, such as squirrels, birds, or insects.
- Some animals can be a source of nutrients for plants. For example, animal waste (such as manure from cows and chickens, or guano from bats) can become fertilizer for plants.

It is not essential for students to illustrate these relationships with food chains or food webs.

Assessment Guidelines:

The objective of this indicator is to *summarize* the interdependence of plants and animals; therefore, the primary focus of assessment should be to generalize the main ways that animals and plants depend on each other to survive. However, appropriate assessments should also require students to *illustrate* how an animal uses a plant as a shelter or food.